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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,217	03/26/2004	T. Darren O'Brien	3852	1930

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TUAN N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3751

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/811,217	O'BRIEN, T. DARREN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tuan N. Nguyen	3751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species I: Fig. 1 in the reply filed on 7/19/06 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Accordingly, claims 7-17, which directed to the non-elected Species II: Fig. 2 is withdrawn from further consideration.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "solid plate" in claim 4 and the "second member" of claim 5 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the detail of the nozzle that would allow the function of claim 2 as described in the

specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 2-6 are objected to because of the following informalities: "A decontamination" on line 1 of each of the claim should be --The decontamination--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

While the specification indicates "the hinge 10 is hollow allowing communication between a source of liquid and the hollow hinge 10, thereby allowing the hollow hinge 10 to act as a liquid distributor to the liquid conduit 12" on lines 10-13 of page 8, the specification fails to teach what hollow hinge structure would allow the gate to be supported on the wall 24 and how the connection would allow liquid from the source to communicate with the liquid conduits (12) of the gate as claimed in line 8 of claim 1. Furthermore, the specification fails to teach the structure of the spray nozzles (14) that would allow the adjustability of claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Caron et al. (hereinafter Caron).

Caron discloses a decontamination gate assembly (Fig. 1) comprising a support member (42); a movable gate (46) pivotally attached to the support member, the movable gate being formed by a plurality of liquid conduits (50) connected together; the movable gate further comprises an array of elongated liquid conduits fixed in an upright position, and a plurality of spray nozzles (52) arranged in spaced relationship on the array; and a source of liquid communicating with the liquid conduits (see col. 3, line 1 et seq.). Each nozzle of the plurality of spray nozzles is inherently adjustable with respect to the conical shape of the spray, the direction of spray, and the volume of liquid dispensed in the same way as of the applicant's spray nozzles. The plurality of spray nozzles is arranged such that the sprays overlap with respect to the spray of conduits (16).

8. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by FR 2857607 (hereinafter Casemajor).

Casemajor discloses a decontamination gate assembly (Fig. 1) comprising a support member; a movable gate (about 12) pivotally attached to the support member, the movable gate being formed by a plurality of liquid conduits (see Fig. 1) connected together; the movable gate further comprises an array of elongated liquid conduits fixed in an upright position (see Fig. 1), and a plurality of spray nozzles (11) arranged in spaced relationship on the array; and a source of liquid communicating with the liquid conduits. Each nozzle of the plurality of spray nozzles is inherently adjustable with respect to the conical shape of the spray, the direction of spray, and the volume of liquid dispensed in the same way as of the applicant's spray nozzles. The plurality of spray

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nozzles is arranged such that the sprays overlap with respect to the spray of nozzles (10). The decontamination gate assembly further comprises a solid plate (about 6) is placed over the plurality of liquid conduits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caron.

The Caron reference discloses only one movable gate as discussed above. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to duplicate another support member and movable gate of Caron, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. The arrangement of the spray of the gates to overlap would be obvious depend on the location of the duplicate second movable gate.

Conclusion


10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Zhou, Blomet, Dean, Demeny, Skibik, Buhler, and Mayhew et al. disclose other spraying stations.

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan N. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4892. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (10:00-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine R. Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Tuan Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3751
9/30/03

TN